

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 009753

15

ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 H-02 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /039 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/ORM:JCHAVCHAVADZE:MTM

APPROVED BY D/HA:JMWILSON

EA:RHMILLER

EA/ANP:MMICHAUD

EA/LC/VN:JROSENTHAL

EA/TB:GROBERTS

H:EKRIZEK (INFO)

----- 103057

R 150023Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009753

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN
AUSTRALIA

1. IN VIEW OF THE RECENT CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT WE BELIEVE
IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REOPEN THE QUESTION OF RESETTLING
INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN AUSTRALIA.

2. AS EMBASSY HAS INDICATED, THE FORMER PM'S NEGATIVE
POSITION DOES NOT REFLECT THE ATTITUDE OF MANY MEMBERS OF
THE PRESENT GOVERNING PARTY, CERTAIN CHURCH GROUPS AND
MANY SEGMENTS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE FORMER PM SAID TO PRESIDENT FORD
ON MAY 7, 1975 THAT AUSTRALIA WOULD ACCEPT "ABOUT HALF OF
THE NUMBER TAKEN BY CANADA." AS OF THIS DATE, WE ESTIMATE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 009753

THAT CANADA HAS TAKEN APPROXIMATELY 4,000. OUR INFORMATION

IS THAT AUSTRALIA HAS ACCEPTED NO MORE THAN 1,200 REFUGEES.

4. WHILE THE DIRECT RESETTLEMENT OF OVER 130,000 REFUGEES THROUGH THE U.S. SYSTEM HAS JUST BEEN COMPLETED, OUR CONCERN NOW IS FOR THE REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS NOW LIVING IN DEPLORABLE CONDITIONS IN CAMPS IN THAILAND. MOST WILL BE RESETTLED BY THE UNHCR IN THAILAND, BUT THERE ARE MANY WHO WOULD BE SUBJECT TO PERSECUTION UPON RETURN TO THEIR HOMELANDS.

5. OF SPECIAL INTEREST ARE THOSE WHO ARE IN THE HIGH RISK CATEGORY -- CONSISTING OF REFUGEES WHOSE ASSOCIATION OR WORK WITH THE U.S. AND ITS ALLIES IN INDOCHINA OR ASSOCIATION WITH FORMER GOVERNMENTS OF VIETNAM, LAOS OR CAMBODIA MAKES THEM PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO PERSECUTION IF THEY HAD TO RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF NATIONALITY. MANY SPEAK ENGLISH AND HAVE SKILLS AND TRAINING THAT WOULD MAKE THEM PARTICULARLY VALUABLE TO AUSTRALIA.

6. REQUEST EMBASSY CANBERRA APPROACH THE GOA ON THIS MATTER AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL. DRAWING ON PREVIOUS PARAGRAPHS AND POINTING OUT AUSTRALIA'S COOPERATION IN THE PAST IN REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, REQUEST GOA TO CONSIDER ADMITTING ADDITIONAL REFUGEES. POINT OUT OUTSTANDING UNHCR APPEAL FOR FUNDS AND RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES. REASSURE GOA THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN BANGKOK AND CONSULAR OFFICES IN THAILAND ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST THEIR EFFORTS IN WHATEVER WAY IS POSSIBLE, SUCH AS HELPING TO IDENTIFY SKILLS AMONG THE REFUGEES TO FACILITATE RESETTLEMENT.

7. EMBASSY BANGKOK MAY ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS THIS GENERAL PROBLEM WITH THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN THAILAND ALSO MAKING THE POINT OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN WHATEVER WAY POSSIBLE.

8. FYI. WE ARE AT PRESENT SEEKING AUTHORITY FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO ADMIT ADDITIONAL REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. WE WILL HAVE TO CONSULT WITH THE CONGRESS AND WE ANTICIPATE THAT CONGRESS WILL ONCE AGAIN BEAR DOWN ON THE ROLE OF OTHER NATIONS IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 009753

REFUGEES. APART FROM THE HUMAN NEEDS OF THESE REFUGEES WHICH REQUIRE REDRESSING, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS IF THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT COULD PARTICIPATE IN A RESETTLEMENT EFFORT FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND. WE HOPE TO ENCOURAGE OTHER COUNTRIES TO TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE AND AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN THIS REGARD. THE UNHCR IS EXPECTED TO LAUNCH A NEW APPEAL SOON FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

AND RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN
THAILAND. GOA COULD RESPOND TO THAT APPEAL WITH BOTH
MONEY AND RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE009753
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JCHAVCHAVADZE:MTM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760015-0082
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760153/aaaabveg.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ORM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <14 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESETTLEMENT OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN AUSTRALIA
TAGS: SREF, AS
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006